

June 24, 2003

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
for
Sediment Retention Pond Dredging Project

Trinity County**

On June 18, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for a sediment retention pond dredging project in Trinity County, California. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Grass Valley Creek and the Trinity River, Trinity River Hydrologic Unit, Middle Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.30.

This project involves partially dredging one of two sediment retention ponds located on the Grass Valley Creek near the confluence with the Trinity River. These ponds were constructed in 1984 to prevent decomposed granitic sands from entering the Trinity River. The ultimate project objective is to protect anadromous fish habitat downstream from the ponds. Pond maintenance requires periodic dredging.

Approximately 3,800 cubic yards of material will be dredged from the ponds. The dredged material will be stored in at an enclosed basin located offsite. Temporary turbidity downstream from the ponds will be a likely impact.

Mitigation for this project includes diverting the creek's flow away from the dredging area and installing turbidity curtains where needed to minimize turbidity. A monitoring plan for turbidity has been developed. Additional best management practices will be implemented, if turbidity caused by the project exceeds North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Plan criteria. The project is planned for mid to late August 2003 and is projected to last a maximum of seven days.

DWR, the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Staff will consider any comments received during a 21-day comment period beginning on the first day of issuing this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Miguel Villicana at (707) 576-2347, or at villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov.